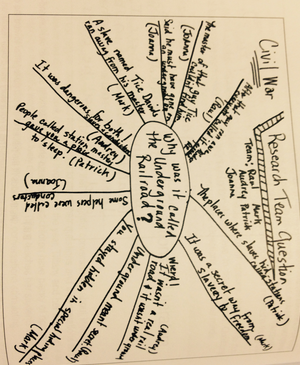
**Using Question Webs to Expand Thinking**

Teachers are always searching for different ways to help students make meaning through their questioning of material that they experience through listening and reading. Children often find it difficult to pick out essential questions from a long list of unrelated questions. One way to highlight the most essential questions is construct a **QUESTION WEB**. In a question web, the essential question is in the center. The lines that project from the center question are used to add information that relates in some way to it. The ultimate goal is to build an answer from all of the various bits of information. Students can used question webs individually to answer specific questions when reading or they can be used for small groups when studying a content area.

As students study a specific content area, they can research a common question and construct meaning through a question web. The example below is from a class that was studying the Civil War. One student raised the question “Why was it called the Underground Railroad?” The students were not completely sure, so they did some reading to answer the question. Pertinent information was added to the web as they researched. The web was drawn on a large piece of butcher paper and new web lines were added when they found new information. By the end of the inquiry, they had accumulated enough information to answer the question.

Source: **Strategies that Work** – Stephanie Harvey and Anne Goudvis